Agenda Date: 06/22/05

Agenda Item: VA



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.nj.us

WATER AND WASTEWATER

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF THE MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES

ORDER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE

BPU DOCKET NO. WR05050451

(Service List Attached)

BY THE BOARD:

On May 18, 2005, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, Petitioner, Middlesex Water Company, Inc., (Middlesex or Petitioner) a public utility of the State of New Jersey subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities (Board) and providing water service to approximately 58,000 customers within the Counties of Middlesex and Monmouth filed a petition for a revision of its rates for water service amounting to an overall increase of \$6,443,984 or 13.1% in annual revenues with rates proposed to become effective on July 1, 2005. The Petitioner does not seek interim rate relief pending final determination on the petition.

As it appears that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is <u>HEREBY ORDERED</u> that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until November 1, 2005, unless the Board, prior to that date, makes a determination disposing of the petition;
- (2) Petitioner shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for hearing on the petition by the Office of Administrative Law, file with this Board and with the Office of Administrative Law (33 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102) proof of compliance with the Notice provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:2-32.2 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12 (b) and (c), which Notice shall include a statement that any relief found by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board to any class or classes of customers on any rate or schedule as the Board may determine; and

(3) Petitioner shall, at the same time it files with the Board, also file proof of service copies upon the Office of Administrative Law, the Division of the Ratepayer Advocate (31 Clinton Street, P.O Box 46005, Newark, NJ 07102), the clerks of each affected municipality, the clerks to the Board of Chosen Freeholders of each affected county, and where appropriate, the executive officer of each affected county within its service area. Service of the petition, notice of hearings and this Suspension Order may be made simultaneously.

DATED: 6/22/05

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

JEANNE M. FOX **PRESIDENT**

COMMISSIONER

CONNIE O. HUGHES COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities

OMER

I/M/O the Petition of Middlesex Water Company For an Increase in Rates for Water Service and Other Tariff Changes BPU Docket No. WR 05050451

SERVICE LIST

Stephen B, Genzer, Esq. Colleen A. Foley, Esq. Saul Ewing, LLP One Riverfront Plaza Newark, NJ 07102

Debra Robinson, Esq.
Division of the Ratepayer Advocate
31 Clinton Street – 11th FL.
P.O. Box 46005
Newark, NJ 07101

Dennis G. Sullivan A Bruce O'Connor Middlesex Water Company 1500 Ronson Road Iselin, NJ 08830

Alex Moreau, DAG Department of Law and Public Safety 124 Halsey Street, 5th floor Newark, NJ 07101